

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /089 W
----- 072001

R 160500 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8737

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS SAIGON 04320

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS ELAB

SUBJECT : GENERAL ELECTRIC ASIA TO OPEN FACTORY IN SAIGON

DEPT PLEASE PASS DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR AND COMMERCE

1. IN KEEPING WITH THE DEPARTMENT' S INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS OF MULTI- NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, WE REPORT A SMALL THOUGH SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT.

2. MR. I. MENTCHER, PRESIDENT AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC (USA) ASIA COMPANY, AND MR. NELSON F. BRITT, MANAGER OF THE SINGAPORE GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, VISITED LABATT MARCH 14 TO INQUIRE ABOUT WAGES AND LABOR CONDITIONS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF SKILLED WORKERS IN SAIGON. MENTCHER SAID HIS COMPANY WAS GOING TO OPEN A METER MANUFACTURING BRANCH OF GE ASIA BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. THEIR INITIAL EFFORT WILL GET UNDERWAY IN LEASED QUARTERS AND WILL REQUIRE 40 TO 50 EMPLOYEES.

3. THEY WERE APPARENTLY UNCONCERNED ABOUT RENEWED HOSTILITIES OR WHAT SOME FOREIGN INVESTORS MIGHT CONSIDER IS AN UNSTABLE COUNTRY. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HOW THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM REPAIRED BURNED- OUT ELECTRIC MOTORS AND TRANSFORMERS.

4. COMMENT: WHEN ONE KNOWS THAT IN VIETNAM FIRST- CLASS
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MECHANICS SUCH AS AIRCONDITIONER AND REFRIGERATION MECHANICS,
MACHINISTS, DIESEL MECHANICS AND POWER- GENERATING EQUIPMENT
MECHANICS WITH EXPERT ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY EARN THE EQUIVA-
LENT OF \$3.00 PER WEEK FOR A 40- HOUR WEEK, LOW- WAGE AREAS SUCH
AS TAIWAN AND HONG KONG MAY HAVE REASON TO EXPECT NEW COMPETITION
FROM A VIETNAM AT PEACE.
BUNKER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Event:
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Drafter: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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